

*Add B17*  
1. An apparatus for facilitating the healing of wounds, comprising:

sealing means for maintaining a reduced pressure on a wound by contacting the skin surrounding the wound;

reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the sealing means for connection to a vacuum source, the reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said sealing means to supply and maintain the reduced pressure beneath the sealing means; and

screen means for positioning within the depth of the wound and within the sealing means.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a generally tubular member.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the generally tubular member is operatively connected to the screen means.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the generally tubular member comprises a side port for promoting a substantially uniform application of reduced pressure within the sealing means.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the generally tubular member includes a first open end embedded within the screen means.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the screen means is adapted to substantially prevent the sealing means from forming sealing contact with the first open end of the tubular member.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the screen means comprises foam.

8. An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

(a) a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(b) an adhesive layer disposed at the periphery of the cover for sealing said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(c) a reduced pressure supply means operably connected with the cover for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply and maintain said reduced pressure beneath the cover.